GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8014
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
BIDI WORKERS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bidi workers and other workers in the tendu leaf sector, separately, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which the Government are protecting the employment structure in these sectors;

(c) whether frequent meeting with trade unions have been held to sort out their problems; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that there is speedy response to matters concerning employment in this sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) : There are about 44 lakh beedi workers in the country. A statement indicating State-wise number of beedi workers is attached at ANNEXURE. No census of tendu leaf collectors in the country has been carried out so far.

(b) to (d) : The apprehensions of beedi workers` organisations with regard to employment scenario in beedi sector, in the context of Government`s policies, are taken up with the concerned authorities for taking appropriate decisions, from time to time.

The Central Advisory Committee on Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, which is a tripartitecommittee comprising of representatives from Government, employers and employees, meets periodically to discuss issues affecting interests of beedi workers.